

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
January 17, 1997

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Quiambaugh House, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 17, 1997. Commodore Gunther presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Peter W. McFadden
Frank Bohlen	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
CMDR John F. Brooks, USCG	Neal H. O'Connell
Carl D. Fast	Norman E. Rabe
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	Richard H. Roberts
H. Wes Maxwell	

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
Brin R. Ford	Philip Smyth
Neal S. O'Connell	

Absent were:

J. Christopher Field	Nicholas Staub II
John H. Lockwood	Paul C. van Dyke

The meeting was called to order at 1244.

The minutes of the previous October 26, 1996 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Anderson reported that the notice of the Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy on April 12, 1997 will be mailed about March 8th. A video of our 1996 races will be shown and Rock of Ages will play.

Rear Commodore Bohlen indicated that the call has gone out for the return of annual trophies.

The offer by Peter Brinckerhoff of a trophy in memory of Salle Evelyn was discussed. Frank Bohlen has talked to Bob Evelyn. Bob was not strong on what specifically might be done and a contribution to a fund to support various sailing programs was ok with him. Peter Brinckerhoff feels strongly that the trophy should be specific to a woman doing something in Off Soundings. Frank is looking for guidance as the subject is still open. After covering much of what was discussed at the October meeting, a show of hands was heavily in favor of not establishing a trophy for any sub group.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Norman H. Gahm, MD	Philip N. Simmons
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It was mentioned that John Menzies has died. The Board stood for a moment of silence for former member John Menzies and the following members:

Richard L. Eaton
John "Jack" Haugh

Harold W. "Mike" Read

With the addition of 5 new members on January 2, 1997, current membership is 515 members.

Treasurer Messer presented his financial report for the 1996 year. A copy is attached to these minutes. Activities this year resulted in a surplus of \$557.13 leaving a balance of \$17,328.19. Several graphs, year to year comparisons, and explanatory commentary explained our finances. The Secretary commented that he did not understand the Club Management account and asked for a listing of the detail for this account.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

\$200	Coast Guard Academy
\$250	Block Island Heath Services

The donation to the Mystic Seaport was discussed later.

Historian Ames commented that our archives at Mystic Seaport Library have been reorganized to provide more room. Also, he reported that Ken Mahler will handle the video for the 1996 races. However, filming, editing and presentation of future races is up in the air. The Seaport does not at this time have personnel qualified to edit the film properly. They will let qualified personnel use their equipment, space, etc to do our films, particularly this year.

After discussion of the contributions Off Soundings has made to the Mystic Seaport in the past, both annually and in lump sums, and the benefits the Seaport provides, It was VOTED to continue our \$1,000 contribution to the Mystic Seaport with \$600 of this earmarked for the Video Department and \$400 for the Library. Further, that Ken Mahler be modestly reimbursed for his time in handling the 1996 Race films, which is estimated to be about \$400.

Venue Survey Committee Chairman McFadden reported on the results of the survey for the Committee comprised of Grant Brandon, Carl Fast, Dick Roberts, Wes Maxwell and himself. Some tabulations of the results are attached together with a summary of comments on the forms. The Committee received 278 responses of which 272 have been tallied. Analysis was broken into 4 groups: Active skippers, crew regularly, do not sail and Race Committee. Though all responses were carefully scrutinized, comments to the Board concerned primarily active skippers.

- . 144 called themselves skippers of which 131 boats recently participated and could be linked to the skippers. Some of the excess were co-skippers and some names could not be read.
- . Geographically 28% were Long Island or West of the Connecticut River, 60% Connecticut River to Watch Hill and 12% East of Watch Hill.
- . 94% of crew support change but only 69% of the skippers. As you get to specific changes the support drops off. Only 34% of

the skippers support a specific change from Shelter Island to Newport.

28% of the skippers would not participate if we went to Newport. Four classes (A1, A2, C2 and C5) had 1/3 or more skippers who would not participate if we went to Newport.

Comments on the survey forms were very thoughtful. Many are tabulated in the attachments.

Board comments included suggestions for one night at Newport and the next at Block Island, Jeff Goubeaud's letter representing the Greenport area, Board Member Lockwood's suggestions to the Commodore and discussions Commodore Gunther has had with Shelter Island.

It was VOTED to continue our 1997 races as last year, Block Island in the Spring and Shelter Island in the Fall. A committee will be appointed to continue discussions with Greenport.

Commodore Gunther will inform Shelter Island of our action. Also, he will explain that we received an unsolicited letter from Greenport which we feel we should pursue to hear what they have to say. The membership will be informed of the survey results by way of the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

Chairman McFadden indicated that he would submit a full written report of the Committee's analysis for our records, including the basic data, for inclusion in our archives.

Race Secretary Roberts asked for comments on guest invitation forms before they are printed. There were none but Carl Fast suggested general distribution of the forms to the membership so that they are readily available. It is planned that a copy be sent with the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

The dates listed below, copy attached, were VOTED accepted:

1998 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting (Friday)	January 16
Guest Invitation Early Decision cut-off	April 2
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 4
First Notice - Spring Series	April 17
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	May 7
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 21
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 5
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 12 & 13
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 10
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	August 13
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 27
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 11
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 18 & 19
Final Results	October 16
Board Meeting (Saturday)	October 17

The Light Displacement Committee report is attached. A light displacement class C-3 will be established and the remaining boats redistributed among classes C-1, C-2, and C-4. This will not address Reinhard Sarges concern as there are not enough short course, high performance boats to accomplish this.

The report of the Lifeline Committee by Chairman Roberts dated January 17, 1997, attached to these minutes, was discussed. The problems of assuming additional liability by acting as experts as proposed by the committee was of concern to the Board in addition to the items discussed in the October meeting. It was VOTED that Off Soundings grandfather lifeline pulpit requirements with the stipulation that the Off Soundings Board strongly recommends that participants in our races upgrade their boats, if necessary, to comply with current requirements (ORC category 4). It was noted that if lack of compliance is perceived by a competitor to give another competitor unfair advantage they can use the regular protest procedure.

Race Secretary Roberts will see if the 12 Metre yachts are interested in participating in Off Soundings in 1997.

Clerk Magovern indicated he had nothing to report.

Measurer Rabe indicated that what he had to say was incorporated in the Race Secretary's report.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell told us that Henry duPont has indicated he will be back in 1997. He expects the chase and stake boat will be back as well.

Membership Committee Chairman Brooks commented that 5 new members were accepted January 2nd by acting Chairman Bohlen. He is getting up to speed on his new job. Six applications are ready for the Committee and several will be posted shortly. In response to a question regarding retention of records, he was told to eliminate what files he felt were not useful. Suggestions were current year plus 1 or 2 years except for "problem applicants", documentation on which we might save for 5 to 7 years.

With regard to the possible reapplication of Peter Ross, Jr., it was suggested that John Lockwood be contacted as to whether he has heard of any recent problems. In any event it would be up to Peter Ross, Jr. to initiate any further action.

Measurement Rule Chairman Brooks indicated he had nothing to report.

Classification Committee Chairman Neal S. O'Connell indicated that his comments were included in the Race Secretary's report.

Protest Committee Chairman Fields was absent.

Entertainment Chairman Fast indicated that had nothing to report but will continue dialogue with Greenport.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood was absent.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub was absent.